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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Delhi: March 12, 2011 — News Broadcasters Association (NBA) has condemned the attack on media persons and their equipments which bore the brunt during the Million March on the Tank Bund on 10.3. 2011. An outdoor broadcasting van of ETV news channel was set ablaze and another OB van of a news channel was badly damaged. Video and photo cameras belonging to several news channels were snatched and thrown into the Hussainsagar Lake by the protestors for recording the acts of vandalism. Several media persons were manhandled and some of them suffered injuries in the hands of the protestors. The attack took place when media persons were recording acts of vandalism by protestors who targeted several statues of great Telugu personalities.

NBA has voiced concern on the growing violence against media persons. NBA stated that media provides a service that is essential for any democratic society. It plays an indispensable role in enabling citizens to hold an open debate and make informed decisions, expose the misdeeds of the mighty & powerful and keep the public informed. There can be no acceptable reason for attacking the men and women who help make possible the fundamental right of freedom of expression. Intimidation of media persons and preventing them from performing their duties are violations of the freedoms enshrined in and guaranteed by the Constitution.

NBA urges the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in ensuring the arrest of the culprits of this vandalism and displaying that no individual(s) are beyond the law of the land. NBA demands an independent & impartial enquiry into the incident and hoped the enquiry would be speedy and the report tabled in the State Assembly in good time. NBA urges the Chief Minister and the State administration to ensure that journalists and media persons are allowed to perform their duties in a free and fearless manner.

Annie Joseph
Secretary General
News Broadcasters Association